

March 16, 1982

LB 378A, 835

And your committee on Enrollment and Review reports LB 378A advanced to Select File.

Mr. President, LB 835 was a bill that was introduced by Senators Wiitala and Wesely. (Read title). The bill was read on January 14 of this year. It was referred to the Public Health Committee for hearing. The bill was advanced to General File. Mr. President, there are committee amendments pending.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Cullan on the committee amendments.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, the committee amendments on LB 835 substantially rewrite the bill. In fact, the amendments totally rewrite the bill. They do totally rewrite the bill. The original bill required that hospitals having 100 or more beds would provide a patient with an itemized list of expenses upon discharge. The committee saw no reason to distinguish between hospitals as far as size is concerned and, therefore, the committee amendments did several things. Initially they provide that all hospitals are included in the bill. This would include the University of Nebraska Medical Center as well as the State Department of Public Institutions. The introducers had requested that those two hospitals be exempt from the provisions of the bill but the thinking of the Health and Welfare Committee was that if this statute is good for private institutions, then it ought to apply to institutions which the State of Nebraska owns and operates itself. The committee amendments also revise the list of items which are to be included in the itemized statement. It provided that the itemized statement is mandated only when there is a written request by the patient and that such written request must be made within 28 days of discharge and then the hospital would have 14 days to comply with such written request. This was to ensure that hospitals would have time to prepare the itemized statements. Many hospitals would have to substantially alter their accounting systems and their billing systems if they were to provide these statements on discharge. So the committee changed the time frame substantially and rather than have the expense of requiring an itemized statement in each case, the itemized statements were only required when requested. Those are the committee amendments to LB 835. I would move for their adoption.

SENATOR CLARK: The question is the committee amendments. Senator Wesely, do you want to talk on the amendments? Senator Wiitala, did you want to talk on the amendment? The committee amendments.